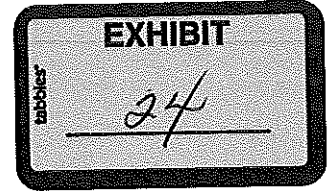




## **Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority**

*Water For Your Future*



**To:** Amey Marrella, Commissioner  
Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

**From:** Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority

**Re:** Testimony On Intent To Adopt Minimum Streamflow Standards and Regulations, RCSA Sections 26-141a-1 to 26-141a-9.

**Date:** January 21, 2010

As created by the Connecticut State Legislature, Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority (SCWA) has several fundamental responsibilities. First, SCWA is required to assist in planning and providing for the public water supply of southeastern Connecticut. Second, we are charged to operate water systems some of which, prior to our involvement, were failing and providing marginal service. Presently, we operate fifteen (15) water systems, all of which are providing quality service to our customers. Pursuant to these fundamental public responsibilities, SCWA strongly urges the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) not to adopt the Streamflow Standards and Regulations, or to submit them for legislative adoption, as they are currently proposed. The following testimony was unanimously approved, on January 11, 2010, by the governing board of SCWA.

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- limit the ability of communities to depend upon currently available water supply and their ability to invoke smart growth policies as they consider their future
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- impose frequent and lengthy water use restrictions on customers to limit demand to provide for mandated releases or decreased well withdrawals
- require the development of new sources, if available, which could limit the likelihood of interconnections and plans for regional water supply solutions

In 2003, SCWA assisted by Fuss & O'Neill Engineers, developed a highly regarded Regional Water Supply Plan for southeastern Connecticut. As determined by SCWA's Regional Water Supply Plan, southeastern Connecticut, even with the present quantity of available public water supply, faces a ten million gallons-per-day water supply deficit by the year 2040. Reduction of available "safe-yield" will exacerbate this projected supply deficit.

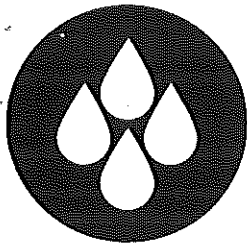
### Conclusion

SCWA contends that the regulations, as currently proposed, present too many "unknowns", as pointed out above. SCWA recommends that the Department of Environmental Protection take the following course of action:

- Classify the streams across the state, then allow public comment, prior to consideration of the adoption of the regulations. Carrying out these steps in this order would allow public water suppliers the opportunity to assess the impact of the regulations, specific to individual water systems and the people they serve.
- Allow public water supply registered and permitted diversions, to be "grandfathered", at the presently allowed withdrawal levels.
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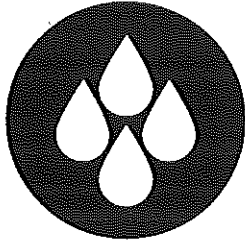
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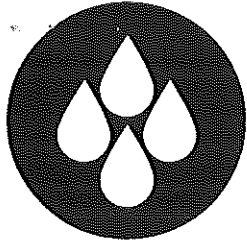
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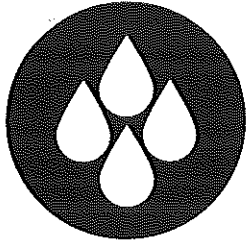
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